

Dear friends of Vital Signs Ministries,

September 2024

I'm trying to get this letter out a bit early because there are important opportunities coming up that I want to remind you about. I will do that after giving a quick review of this last month's ministry activities. Okay, let's go.



* Our letter-writing parties at the end of July were not very well attended. Still, we produced about 80 letters and cards, including one of mine about Kamala Harris' passion for unlimited abortion which was (surprisingly) printed in the Omaha newspaper. You can read it on Vital Signs Blog, August 7. Other letters written that day were posted July 31.

* As you locals know, July 31 saw the Omaha area hit with a short but ferocious windstorm and our power was knocked out for four days. But despite the inconvenience and intense heat, we not only survived, I'm pleased to say we kinda' thrived. Coming to our aid were a couple of battery-operated fans, a 4,000 lumen flashlight, and a miniature Weber grill, so we managed just fine. Yes, our neighborhood trees were pummeled but there were no damages to homes or vehicles. Important too was that the storm's effects were met by a spirited and resolute response from our neighbors and, over the next three days, we filled two 20-foot dumpsters up to the brim with limbs and branches from 11 households. It was a fantastic response and that made our block party BBQ the following weekend an even nicer event.

Oh, one more story about the storm aftermath. Not only had Claire and I put in a lot of the "heavy lifting" on the cleanup, Claire also baked several dozen of her famous chocolate chip cookies as soon as our power came back Sunday night. Thus were all of our neighbors able to celebrate their electricity being back on with plates of right-out-of-the-oven cookies! What a girl!

* The prayers and pro-life witness continues apace outside the violently evil Planned Parenthood abortion business. And, besides the regular heartbreak and frustration we always experience in this ministry, we are recently dealing again with the menacing provocations of pro-abortion escorts. One of the females doing this is particularly obscene and aggressive and so we ask you to perhaps lift up some special prayers for us, asking the Father to keep us from being distracted by her nasty antics and from temptations to respond in any way inappropriately.

* In just a couple of days, we will be receiving a visit by a dear friend and pro-life colleague from Birmingham, England, Dr. Greg Gardner. Greg has been one of the constants in all of the 5 mission trips we've taken to England over the years and we are thrilled he's going to come here and meet some of Omaha's finest pro-lifers. But, in addition to several social events we have scheduled in the 3 and 1/2 days he will be here, Greg will also be recording interviews with us for Vital Signs, for Jackie Mahr over at Walnut Radio, and for Karen Bowling and the Nebraska Family Alliance down in Lincoln. We will give you the relevant links to these things in next month's letter.

* But before Dr. Gardner's visit, Claire and I will be handling a couple of 3-hour shifts at the Nebraska Right to Life outreach booth at the Nebraska State Fair out in Grand Island. We will close out the first day's NRL ministry and then open the booth and take the first shift the following morning.

* The August writing projects. In addition to the letters we wrote at the Vital Signs parties, we completed a couple of major projects involving personal letters to, I guess, about 30 friends from our prayer list as well as a few others we know who are climbing some tough "mountains of life" right now. I also wrote items for the Business and Professional People for Life's newsletter. And I wrote for Vital Signs Blog on important subjects. Those posts included "When Is the Beginning Not the Beginning?" (August 27); "Save One or Save None? Some Thoughts on the 'Abolitionist' Criticism of the Pro-Life Movement" (August 21); and "Keeping the Killing of Innocents Out of Mind" (August 9). Check 'em out, won't you?

* The series of August "When Swing Was King" shows went tremendously well. It is sometimes hard to imagine, but we are now in our 14th year of this unique ministry of entertainment, encouragement, and as one friend describes it, "soul therapy." Both we and our audiences love it more than ever! The smiles. The tears. The tapping toes. The singing along. The compliments and thank-yous. The stories. The memories. The "Please hurry and come back soon" comments. Wow. Each show is such an incomparable blessing. Thank You, Lord.



* And, of course, there is our church service every Sunday afternoon at Aksarben Village Senior Living. What a wonderful time we have there. And how grateful we are for the friends who are -- on various Sundays -- part of the team: Don Kohls, Allen Nelson, Dick Loneman, Patrick Osborne, Ruth Denzler, Tom & Lila Sharman, Keith & Carol Moran, Matt Troutman and the kids, and Karla Struble.

* Other activities in August included a dinner with Larry & Deb Harrold and then a birthday coffee with them and other friends; a lunch at Immanuel Village with Chris Dockery; a book discussion with Keith & Carol Moran and Patrick Osborne; a coffee with Bob & Linda Potter to discuss an upcoming reunion of the Christian Brotherhood; and hosting an indoor-picnic lunch for friends visiting from Virginia, Dan & Hannah Tate and their 7 kids. (I was honored to officiate their wedding back in the day!)

There was also the work of compiling the Top 5 for Vital Signs Blog every Saturday morning; a lunch with Ryan Garvey; a coffee with Ralph & Carol Kramper to plan a party for Dr. Gardner during his visit; lunch in Lincoln with Claire's brother Kevin, a surprise visit from Bill Weber; and an interview with a woman who wants our help in telling her remarkable testimony about reuniting with her daughter decades after making a loving adoption decision.

And then there were, of course, more plebian duties these past weeks -- several sessions with the physical therapist for Claire's recovery from hand surgery, finally surrendering to a decision to buy a new water heater, a lot of lawn work with a troublesome mower, getting to know our new next door neighbors, reading Anthony Trollope novels, repairs on the Highlander after we beat it up a bit on those rugged roads to the Mt. Sherman trailhead, and so on.

And about those upcoming opportunities?

* Nebraska Lt. Governor Joe Kelly is our guest speaker at the next Business & Professional People for Life Luncheon. Kelly is a Nebraska native, an experienced and skilled prosecutor, a dedicated servant to his family and community, and a longstanding defender of the sanctity of life. And he will be speaking about how we can best beat back the abortion madness facing our state. The details? Thursday, September 12 from 11:30 until 1 at the German-American Society, North Hall.

Now the luncheon & program is normally \$25. But if you sign up through Vital Signs Ministries, you receive a \$10 discount. We are asking for prompt RSVPs to us at (402) 341-8886 or email responses to clairemariehartford@gmail.com

* And then the next Vital Signs Book Brunch will be at our home on Saturday morning, September 21 from 10 until noon. The book under discussion will not only be one "hot off the presses," it has been written by our old friend and ministry colleague Dr. Harold Berry. At 90 years old, Harold is still researching and writing for Back to the Bible as well as teaching, mentoring, and pursuing a diligent prayer ministry with his newlywed wife, Mary Dee. It's going to be an important adventure to read Harold Berry's new book, *Genesis: Daily Scriptures to Receive, Reflect, and Respond* so don't miss out.

Oh, did I mention that Harold Berry will be with us in person? That's right; he will introduce the book, help lead the discussion, and patiently answer questions. Again, don't miss this unique opportunity.

Well, that's it for another LifeSharer letter. We will send it over to the printer (who also mails it) as soon as we edit and proofread it. And then...we're off to the State Fair. As always, we send with this letter our ongoing thanks for all you do in praying for us, supporting Vital Signs Ministries, and urging us on in all of our services for the Lord Jesus.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denny". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom left of the page.